

Las Cruces, NM – Harry Teague announced today that the Pueblo of Laguna has been awarded a grant to develop a program dedicated to environmental protection and infrastructure issues. The \$127,000, awarded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), will be put towards development of environmental and administrative infrastructure, as well as addressing solid and hazardous waste issues.

“This grant will go towards resources that, often times, larger communities take for granted,” said Harry Teague, whose district includes the Pueblos of Laguna, Acoma, Isleta, and Zuni, as well as the Mescalero Apache Tribe, and the Navajo Nation Chapters of Alamo, Ramah, and To’hajiilee. “I look forward to continuing my work with the Pueblo of Laguna to ensure its members can enjoy land and water that’s clean.”

The award can be put towards developing environmental and administrative infrastructure, providing environmental oversight, and developing Geographic Information System/Global Positioning System (GIS/GPS) capabilities. The funds will also be used for outreach activities and to address solid and hazardous waste issues.

Harry Teague has continued to work with the Pueblo of Laguna to address the community’s water and waste water infrastructure needs, as well as other environmental cleanup issues in the surrounding region. On Sunday, he met with Laguna officials and discussed the grant during his visit to the St. Joseph’s Feast Day celebration. Harry Teague has also invited Laguna Governor John Antonio to Washington, DC to testify at a hearing of the House Natural Resources Committee in support of legislation co-sponsored by Teague that make all Surface Mine and Reclamation Act (SMCRA) funds eligible for the remediation of old uranium mines and mills. If the bill were to pass it would make \$14.5 million in existing SMCRA funds available for use to clean the 137 uranium sites across the state that need remediation, many of which are

located in Cibola County.

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